

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 11, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
2006 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman Roybal-Allard, and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

One of the most critical operations at the end of our country's conflict in Afghanistan was ensuring that our Afghan allies were safely evacuated. When it was time for the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to determine where to take these evacuees, two civilian airports served as their points of entry as part of what would become known as Operation Allies Welcome: Dulles International Airport and Philadelphia International Airport. As the representatives of these airports, we write to request that the next fiscal year 2022 Homeland Security appropriations measure include provisions to authorize DHS to reimburse the airports for expenditures incurred because of their participation in Operation Allies Welcome.

Dulles International and Philadelphia International proudly stepped up to ensure that our Afghan allies were safely welcomed into the United States. Since evacuation operations began in August 2021, the two airports have welcomed over 300 flights and 80,000 evacuees. With Dulles International's role paused, all Afghan evacuee flights are currently being processed at Philadelphia International. DHS recently advised that these flights will continue through September 30, 2022.

Congress provided \$6.3 billion to support Afghan evacuee operations in H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding, and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, and an additional \$7.55 billion in H.R. 6119, the Further Extending Government Funding Act. However, as advised by DHS, the airport expenditures fall outside of the eligibility of the programs through which those funds are being administered. Moreover, DHS is constrained because the costs incurred by the airports prior to October 1, 2021 do not qualify for fiscal year 2022 funds.

With less than 24 hours' notice of the first incoming flights, the airports quickly facilitated the necessary staffing, processes, and accommodations to provide a comfortable and safe environment for the evacuees. As critical partners in this humanitarian effort, the airports deserve parity with the other supporting organizations who are able to secure reimbursement for their efforts.

Therefore, we respectfully urge you to include the necessary language to ensure that DHS has the authorization and funding to reimburse Dulles International and Philadelphia International for their expenditures related to Operation Allies Welcome.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



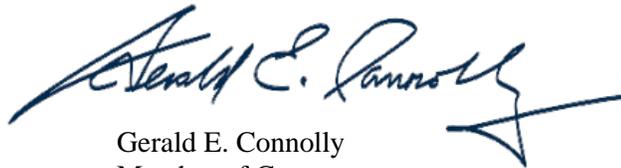
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
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Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
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Chrissy Houlahan
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Donald Norcross
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